Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad stressed the difference between terrorism and liberation struggle during an Athens banquet speech broadcast by Damascus radio, asserting that the struggle against colonialism and occupation is a "right and a duty" which Syria supports. He acknowledged that Palestinians have sometimes committed errors in their armed struggle, stressing that attacks in West Europe are "terrorist operations and do not benefit the Palestinian cause." Contending that the line separating terrorism and liberation struggles is "clear" to Syria, Al-Asad said the international community should agree on "the limits of terrorism and the limits of resistance and liberation" by discussing the issue in a "responsible international body" that could establish standards of conduct.

Earlier, SANA reported that Al-Asad discussed the "tense situation" in the Mediterranean during lengthy talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. Athens radio said Papandreou told the Syrian leader that Greece will submit proposals aimed at "activating the European factor" in order to establish conditions for a political dialogue among all parties to the Middle East conflict. The radio also reported the unexpected arrival in Athens of Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and QNA disclosed that he is carrying a message to Al-asad from King Husayn concerning the latter's efforts to improve Syrian-Iraqi relations.

In Moscow, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam began talks with Andrey Gromyko, president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, TASS announced 28 May, noting that Khaddam arrived in the Soviet capital the previous day on a working visit at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

Libya

During his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud delivered a written message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported. A Moscow television report on the meeting said Gorbachev emphasized the Soviet Union's readiness to develop bilateral economic cooperation and to render "assistance" to strengthen Libya's "defense capability." Later, in a Kremlin banquet speech cited by JANA, Jallud praised the "advanced relations" between the two states, while Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that he expressed Libya's appreciation for the USSR's "unswerving" position regarding the "U.S.-Atlanticist aggression" against the Jamahiriyah.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres "angrily rejected" left-wing opposition charges that the government has tried to cover up the affair of the Shin Bet chief suspected of suppressing evidence to inquiries into the death of two terrorists, Jerusalem radio reported. One of the attorney general's allegations against the Shin Bet chief is that he personally gave the order to kill the two captured terrorists but subsequently led the inquiry commissions to believe that he did not give the order, the radio noted.

Arab Comment on Thatcher Visit

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told Radio Monte Carlo that the eight Palestinians who met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher 26 May reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and assured her that "there will be no negotiations or political moves except through the PLO or with PLO approval." The Palestinians supported her proposals for new municipal elections in the occupied territories, he noted. WAFA's political editor sharply criticized Thatcher in a commentary broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio, asserting that her government is unique among the Europeans in its "very negative position" on Palestinian rights, a stand which "fully conforms with the U.S.-Zionist position." In contrast, a Cairo radio commentary viewed Thatcher's statements in Israel as a small step that could promote the peace process on the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which is the "most realistic and moderate" on the part of the Palestinian side.

Iran-Iraq War

Iran "smashed" an Iraqi offensive in the Hajj 'Umran area and inflicted "heavy" casualties on the Iraqis, according to a communique cited by IRNA. For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported that Iran suffered "heavy" casualties during an unsuccessful attack in the same sector. In fighting in the Al-Faw area, a military report carried by Tehran radio reported "hundreds" of Iraqi casualties in a series of successful Iranian operations against Iraqi positions along the Al-Faw-al-Bihar axis, while the Iraqi communique noted that Iraq "crushed" an Iranian counterattack in the same sector and inflicted "heavy" losses.

In air activity, "shipping sources" cited by the Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* stated that a German container vessel was attacked by Iranian planes in the southern sector of the Gulf 27 May in reprisal for Iraq's missile attack on a Cypriot-registered tanker. Meanwhile, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA asserted that Iraqi fighters raided a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 27 May.

Egypt

The Supreme State Security Court upheld its decision to release 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and 59 other Muslim fundamentalists over the objection of Interior Minister Zaki Badr, MENA reported.

Pakistan

One person was killed and four others were injured in a bomb explosion outside a U.S. airline office in Karachi, Karachi radio reported citing the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN. The report revealed that two other bombs exploded outside Saudi Arabian airline offices, causing damage. AFP said that three bombs detonated outside Saudi airline facilities in Karachi and that another blast occurred at the Saudi consulate general in the city, in addition to the attack on the U.S. airline office.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Najibullah on Reconciliation With Rebels
LD260533 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 25, BAKHTAR: "The state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is prepared for a national reconciliation with those of our countrymen who are wandering abroad in misery, so that they can return to their homeland and resume their normal life". This was stated by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA addressing the audience of a meeting held at Jafar village, Char Asyab District of Kabul Province. It is with such a reconciliation, he emphasized, that a calm and prosperous living condition will prevail through affection and brotherhood.

Talking in a free and democratic atmosphere with the representatives and elders of the district, Comrade Najibullah asked about the problems of the peasants regarding the distribution of land to the landless, repair of roads, mosques, schools, provision of health services and other facilities and notes were taken for tackling their problems.

Haji Abdul Qayum, president of the National Fatherland Front and Marjan, chairman of the village council of the district, on behalf of their district thanked Comrade Najibullah for visiting their area and pledged not to refrain from any efforts for defending the gains of the April Revolution.

General secretary of the PDPA CC met a number of peasants on their farms and chatted with them. He also visited Beni Hesar livestock farm situated in the same area.

Comrade Najibullah critically examined the work of the party committee of the district and drew their further attention for serving the inhabitants of the area.

Najibullah Tours Office of PDPA Paper
LD270624 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 26, OANA-BAKHTAR — Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, visited the office of the daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB-E SAWR*, organ of the Central Committee of the PDPA, and talked with the personnel of the daily.

Touching upon the present conditions of the country, Comrade Najibullah described the significance of the daily for the mobilisation of the party members and the working people of the country for the implementation of the decisions of the party plenums sixteen through eighteen. Under the conditions of the undeclared war the daily plays a salient role as a propaganda [words indistinct] people's organiser in struggling against the avowed enemies of the country.

He drew the attention of the daily's personnel in levelling up its publication on the socio-economic development of the DRA for the years of 1986 to 1991.

The central publication organ of the PDPA, Comrade Najibullah said, should struggle with ever-greater persistence against the society's negative events and should bring under principled criticism the social organisations and other party members for their shortcomings and their violation of the party discipline.

Sadiq Kawun, editor of the daily, promised to fulfil its duty as a reliable weapon of the party in its struggle for the realisation of the decisions of the plenums of the PDPA CC.

Pakistani Tribal Elder Jailed; Rebel Clashes Noted
LD260538 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 25, BAKHTAR: The Pakistani police in the Mohmand Political Agency, a free tribes region, has put in jail Malik Akbar Khan, one of the elders of Safi Sorkmar, without any reason, reports reaching here say. The valorous people of Safi Sorkmar, the report adds, blocked the main road for four days as a sign of protest. Later, they took hostage a state vehicle with four Pakistani militias against the imprisonment of Malik Akbar Khan. They warned the Pakistani government that these four persons will not be released until Malik Akbar Khan is freed.

According to another report, a bitter clash has taken place at Lashkar Keli Hotel in Mohmand Agency between the Afghan bandits and the people of Mohmand. One person belonging to Koda Kheyl Mohmand was martyred as a result of the clash and the bandits were seriously injured. The people of Mohmand have reportedly disarmed the Afghan bandits and confiscated their arms.

The Mohmand people have asked the Pakistani military regime to withdraw the Afghan bandits from their soil and cautioned the concerned authorities if the situation continues as such they would resort to arms and would forcibly expel the miscreants from their soil.

Unrest in Pakistan Noted; Rebel Arms Depot Destroyed
LD260545 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 25, BAKHTAR: The situation in Peshawar has aggravated, reports reaching here say. As a result of an explosion taken place at one of the markets of the city, 19 people have lost their lives and another 21 people have been seriously wounded, reports add.

Reports add that an explosion has also taken place in the arms depot of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries in Naser Bagh camp of the city which has resulted in the total destruction of the depot. It is said that as a result of the explosion of mines and rockets stored in the depot, 17 persons were killed and seven dwellings have been completely destroyed.

According to another report, an explosion has took place in Afghan hotel in Bajawar, which has claimed the lives of three Afghan counter-revolutionary elements and seriously wounding another one. The report adds that as a result of the explosion, the hotel has been seriously damaged and weapons stored inside the hotel were also destroyed.

After an explosion took place in Loysom, a vast demonstration was staged. The participants of the demonstration demanded

that General Ziaul Haq should expel the Afghan counter-revolutionaries territory, otherwise they would be compelled to expel them by force of weapons.

According to another report, the situation in Khurram Agency (a territorial administrative unit of Pakistani regime in the territory of free tribes) has aggravated, and the unrest and raids of the people of the agency against the establishments of Pakistani Government have seriously peturbed the government. The report says that the people of Khurram Agency have attacked the camp of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and the military post of Pakistani militia in Damoshar, which has resulted in vast financial and human losses to the camp and the military post.

The people of Khurram Agency have raided on a military garrison of Pakistan, called Khoshangoal, inflicting huge financial and human losses to the military forces of Pakistan. The report adds that the people of Khurram Agency have raided on a Pakistani military post called Dogly. The post was besieged for two hours and it suffered great financial and human losses.

Commerce Ministry Releases Foreign Trade Figures

LD250620 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR — The consultative board of the Ministry of Commerce met to consider the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the 17th and 18th plenums of the PDPA as well as assess the activities of last year ended March 20, 1986. And the draft of the economic plan for (1986) of the ministry.

At the outset, Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce, presented the main report dealing with the activity and the work carried out in 1985 by the departments and commercial institutions of the Ministry of Commerce. The report noted that the volume of foreign trade in last Afghan year reached 1,413 million dollars of which 848 million dollars constituted imports and 565 million dollars exports.

Foreign trade with the friendly country — Soviet Union — and other socialist countries is growing satisfactorily. In 1985 the total share of the Soviet Union in exports was 67.6 percent and in imports 61.8 percent. The share of other socialist countries in exports was 8.5 percent and in imports 5.2 percent. These show and increase over the year 1984, the report added.

In home trade, afs [afghanis] 15,050 million were obtained from the selling of goods through state-owned shops and stores of the Ministry of Commerce which shows an increase of 18.7 percent compared to 1985.

SPA: Mujahidin Kill 30 PDPA Members

GF271638 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, 27 May (SPA) — A total of 30 members of the Communist Party ruling in Afghanistan were killed in an ambush set by the Afghan mujahidin upon a vehicle that carried them in Kabul last week. Diplomatic sources today stated that the mujahidin attacked an airport and a Soviet military complex in Kabul last Thursday, destroying 3 Soviet tanks. In an attack with missiles on a Soviet force near Kabul last week, the mujahidin captured two Soviet soldiers.

The sources added that the Afghan capital was put under military control following expanded clashes between two factions of the Communist Party ruling in Afghanistan at the begining of May. A total of 70 persons were killed in the clashes.

Continuing Reportage on Punjab Situation

Gandhi: Accord Will Be Implemented

BK280303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 May 86

[Text] The prime minister has reaffirmed that the Punjab accord will be implemented in letter and spirit and nothing can block it. This assurance was given by Mr Rajiv Gandhi to a delegation of the All India Sikh Council which called on him in New Delhi yesterday.

The delegation was led by Mr. R.S. Narula, former justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and included Sikh leaders from various parts of the country.

In a memorandum, the delegation drew the prime minister's attention to the reported cross migration of people to and from Punjab and urged him to take effective measures to check it.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the union agriculture minister, Dr Dhillon, were also present.

In a resolution adopted at the Punjab Congress-I Executive Committee yesterday, the party appealed to the state government to take all political and administrative steps to ensure security of the life and property of the people.

At a meeting at Ludhiana, the Punjab unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party has also expressed concern over the law and order situation in the state and the migration of some members of the minority community from certain districts.

Meanwhile, eight persons have been arrested from Amritsar on charges of sedition. They include four women.

The state police have also arrested five terrorists in Faridkot and Ludhiana Districts. While four of them were apprehended in Faridkot, one terrorist was caught in Ludhiana. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

Barnala Rules Out Troop Deployment

BK260948 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has welcomed the appointment of the 8-member advisory panel on the Punjab situation under the chairmanship of Mr Jagjivan Ram. Talking to newsmen in Amritsar, he expressed sorrow over the recent violent incidents in the state, particularly in Amritsar, and said action against the terrorists [words indistinct].

Mr Barnala ruled out the deployment of the Army in the border districts of Punjab saying that this is no solution of (?the problem). Earlier, Mr Barnala presented himself at the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] in the Golden temple after having completed a week-long atonement as directed by the five Sikh high priests. Mr Barnala was presented a saropa [Sikh saber] on this occasion.

Suspected Terrorists Kill 2

BK250908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] In Punjab two persons were killed when two suspected terrorists fired at them in village (Teja Kalan) near Fatehgarh Chhurian in Gurdaspur District this morning. The victims were standing at the village bus stop when they were attacked. The culprits escaped before the police could reach the spot. Police and the paramilitary forces have cordoned off the area and the combing operations to apprehend the culprits are continuing.

Assembly Speaker Resigns

BK271311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] The speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Mr Ravi Inder Singh, has resigned. He sent his letter of resignation today to the governor, Mr Siddharta Shankar Ray, who is currently on a visit to Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts. His resignation comes a week before the state assembly was scheduled to meet to consider a no confidence motion against (?him).

Mathew Commission Proposal Accepted

BK271415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] The Punjab government has accepted the proposal of the Venkataramaiah Commission to give an area of 15,000 acres in Rajpura Tahsil [revenue district] of Patiala District to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said that there are some contiguous Hindi-speaking villages in Rajpura Tahsil equivalent to that area. Punjab is ready to give this area to Haryana for building its new capital. Mr Barnala said that the state is interested that Haryana builds its new capital township near Chandigarh because its benefit could also accrue to Punjab.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Haryana cabinet was held in Chandigarh today to discuss the commission's proposal.

Later, speaking to newsmen the chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, said that the area offered by the commission is inadequate than [as heard] compared to Hindi speaking areas of Abohor and Fazilka Tahsils which have been identified by the Mathew Commission. He said that the state wants to build its new capital in a central place and not near Chandigarh. Mr Bhajan Lal reiterated that the Punjab accord should be implemented in toto.

Further Reportage on Visit of SWAPO's Nujoma

First Diplomatic Mission Opened

BK251415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO] set up a full-fledged diplomatic mission in New Delhi yesterday. Its chancery was inaugurated by the SWAPO president, Mr Sam

Nujoma. It is SWAPO's first embassy anywhere in the world. A group of Africans and others present on the occasion cheered as Mr Nujoma unfurled the mauve, red, and green SWAPO flag in the embassy.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Nujoma said its people will never forget the solidarity and support that India has extended to the Namibian people. India's heroic role against colonialism has inspired oppressed people everywhere in the struggle for freedom.

Referring to the current developments, Mr Nujoma said SWAPO condemns the use of Namibia by Pretoria as a base for aggression against Frontline States.

Criticizes U.S., UK Policy on Namibia

BK261643 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The president of the South West African People's Organization [SWAPO], Mr Sam Nujoma, has warned the Pretoria regime that Namibians will intensify the struggle to speed up their liberation. He was addressiog a news conference in New Delhi today on the last day of his official visit to India. He is leaving for Tehran tomorrow.

Mr Nujoma said his extensive talks with Indian leaders were fruitful. In reply to a question, he said the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has promised to increase material, financial, political and economic support to SWAPO. Asked about the attempt to link Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, he said the issue has been created by the United States to block Namibia's freedom. The idea is to delay the independence so that capitalist powers can go on exploiting the natural resources on Namibia and use its coast for their strategic purposes.

He criticized the British Government for refusing to support the demands for economic sanctions against the racist regime on the ground that this would lead to unemployment of a large number of British workers. Mr Nujoma asked how long can British workers depend on the killing of innocent Namibians and exploitation of South African people to keep their jobs.

Mr Nujoma had talks today with the minister for external affairs, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, and the minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao.

Reportage on Visit of UK Labor Party's Kinnock

Arrival Statement Condemns RSA

BK250919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The British opposition Labor Party leader, Mr Neil G. Kinnock, has said that South Africa deserves strong condemnation and total isolation from the world for its raids against some of the Frontline African States. Talking to all India Radio correspondent at Delhi Airport on his arrival in the country this morning, he said his party favors comprehensive sanctions against the Pretoria regime. He described the raids as state-sponsored terrorism against the African people struggling for peace and development.

During his stay in the capital, Mr Kinnock will call on the president and the prime minister. He will also meet the ministers of finance, external affairs, and human resource development.

Meets SWAPO's Sam Nujoma

BK261628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition in Britain, and the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, had extensive talks in New Delhi today. Mr Arjun Singh hosted a lunch for Mr Kinnock at which some central ministers and leaders of several opposition parties were also present. Among the subjects discussed between Mr Arjun Singh and Mr Kinnock were Britain's attitude toward India and relations between the Labor Party and the Congress-I.

Mr Kinnock had a meeting with the Southwest African People's Organization president, Mr Sam Nujoma. He also called on the external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar.

Karachi: Explosions at U.S., Saudi Airline Offices
BK280230 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0214 GMT 28 May 86

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN, one person was killed and four others injured in a bomb explosion outside an American airline office located in a hotel on the (Faysal) Road in Karachi last evening. One of the injured is in critical condition. Two other bombs also exploded outside the Saudi Arabian airline offices at two different places damaging the offices.

Moscow Report on Attack on Indian Helicopter Denied
BK271730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad had contradicted a news item broadcast by Radio Moscow quoting PRESS TRUST OF INDIA that Pakistani forces had fired a Stinger missile at an Indian helicopter in the Siachen area. The spokesman termed it as baseless and said the item is a motivated allegation and has no truth.

Customs Authorities Seize 'Large Quantity' of Arms
BK280305 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 86

[Text] Kohat customs authorities seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from a truck near the Kotal checkpost near Kohat. These arms were being smuggled from Adam Khel Pass to Kohat. The arms seized included a large number of automatic rifles, pistols, and Kalashnikov rifles and four anti-tank and two anti-aircraft guns.

Afghan Mujahidin Capture Areas of Paktia Province
BK270314 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Afghan mujahidin have captured Sarsal, Zadral, Mir Khel, (Shariqilli), Gulshandi, and Harchantal areas of Paktia Province. They reportedly forced the Soviet-Kabul forces to pull back from these areas. They also launched rocket attacks on a military convoy in Qandahar city early this month, killing eight Soviet-Kabul soldiers and damaging two tanks.

Karachi: 40 Civilians Killed in Qandahar Shelling
BK280303 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 86

[Text] According to reports, Afghan mujahidin repulsed a Soviet-Karmal troops attack in the (Ala Jirga) region after stiff resistance. Mujahidin killed 11 Soviet-Karmal troops and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

According to another report received from Qandahar, the Soviet-Karmal troops destroyed many buildings by shelling the city's [name indistinct] market. More than 40 civilians were killed in the shelling. The people, in a gesture of great anger and anguish over the incident, closed all business establishments in the city.

Judge Rules on Juncjo's Membership in House
BK251738 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat, has pronounced that the reference made to him by the speaker of the National Assembly on the 7th of May 1986 has been rendered infructuous consequent upon the promulgation of the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Election Amendment Ordinance, 1986.

The referent was made under Article 63-2 of the Constitution at the instance of Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan and of Sher Afghan Khan Niazi, MNA's [Members of National Assembly], regarding the disqualification of Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo and Mr Abdul Sattar (Laleka) from being members of the National Assembly.

Through another order, the chief election commissioner said, having duly considered the arguments of the parties, he was of the view that the reference dated 25th March 1986 made to him by the speaker of the Sind assembly under Article 63-2 read with Article 113 and 127 of the Constitution has been rendered infructuous, consequent upon the promulgation of the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Election Amendment Ordinance, 1986.

Zain Noorani Leaves for UN Session on Africa
BK271630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 May 86

[Excerpt] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani left Islamabad for New York today to attend the 5-day special session of the United Nation's General Assembly that begins today.

Measures to solve the serious economic problems of African nations will be formulated in it.

It is expected that a communique will be issued at the end of the session, the draft of which is being prepared by Pakistan's assistant representative at the UN, Qazi Showkath Farid, who is also a vice chairman of organizing [committee] of the special session.

BANGLADESH

100 Guerrillas Reported Rounded Up by Government

BK250623 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 25 (AFP) — A government amnesty offer went into effect Sunday amid reports that some 100 outlawed tribal guerrillas have been rounded up in southeastern Bangladesh.

The suspected guerrillas, members of the "Shanti Bahini," were arrested in the past few days, before the month-long general amnesty offer took hold, newspapers reported here Sunday. The government amnesty offer, which gives guerrillas one month to surrender, was announced by the Interior Ministry Saturday.

The *NEW NATION* newspaper, quoting "sources" in Chittagong, said that about one-third of those arrested in the past week have confessed to connections with the Shanti Bahini, while the rest were found innocent and allowed to go.

Sources told the newspaper that only suspects captured with firearms were charged and that others were being held for further interrogation. The daily said that the arrests were made during an operation in the Chittagong hill tracts district. It added that the sweep was being "handled carefully so that innocent people did not face any trouble and harassment."

The general amnesty offer came amid reports of escalating trouble in the 13,000-square kilometer (8,060-square mile) rugged Chittagong hill tracts district which borders Burma and the eastern Indian states of Tripura and Mizoram.

According to reports reaching the capital, thousands of Bengali settlers have fled the area in the last few weeks following renewed attacks by Shanti Bahini insurgents.

Official sources in Chittagong said fresh raids by Shanti Bahini insurgents operating from sanctuaries in India have left over 60 people dead and more than 250 wounded since late April. The Shanti Bahini, which means "peace force," has been campaigning against Bengali settlers moved into the area under a government resettling plan. They also want greater autonomy for the tribal-dominated Chittagong hill tracts district.

According to official estimates, clashes among the guerrillas, Bengali settlers, and security forces have claimed up to 6,000 lives since the early 1970s. Under a resettlement plan, more than 200,000 Bengalis were given land and new homes in the sparsely-populated district inhabited by over a dozen tribal and ethnic groups.

Officials claimed that the insurgents suffered a major setback when more than 3,500 Shanti Bahini guerrillas surrendered to Bangladesh authorities during an 18-month amnesty period that ended in April 1985.

Officials believe that many insurgents have crossed over to Indian territory, and blame India for giving sanctuary and support to them — an allegation that New Delhi had denied.

SRI LANKA

Continuing Reportage on Tamil Clashes, Situation

Security Minister: More Bombings

BK261216 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Police yesterday warned traders against bombs that could be slipped into their supplies as investigators look for the owner and driver of a truck that brought a bomb to Colombo from Jaffna on Saturday [24 May]. This bomb, weighing about 5 kg, was discovered when a laborer unloading the goods found a bag of chilies unusually heavy. The army bomb disposal squad found the live bomb concealed in the sack.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that terrorists were planning more bomb attacks on civilians to provoke a backlash in the south. According to the police, since the bomb discovery the driver and cleaner of the vehicle were missing. Police have questioned about 25 people in the course of their investigation.

'Terrorists' Actions in North, East

BK251128 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] An 8-year-old girl was killed and two women were injured when terrorists raided the village of Kala in Batticaloa on Friday night. LANKA PUWATH, quoting security sources, also said that a Sinhalese villager in Trincomalee has been shot dead by terrorists. A gang of about 10 terrorists armed with rifles and submachine guns had entered the home of M.E. Alesighe. Terrorists had opened fire when the man had argued with them. Home guards in the area had then moved in and attacked the terrorist gang.

Yesterday, five villagers were killed and six others injured when terrorists attacked the village of Silmorah in Trincomalee. Police have recovered four bundles of Tamil Eelam literature from an abandoned well at Senapura, about 6 miles from Puttalam town. A terrorist was shot dead by security forces after he hurled a grenade at them at Khuddaitala in Kalmunai. The security forces were returning after a road-clearing operation when the incident occurred.

Marxist-oriented separatist terrorists made one of several futile attacks on the security forces detachment in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka, last Friday night. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the attack was effectively repulsed. One soldier sustained minor injuries while casualties among terrorists are not known. R. Padmanadhan, a Marxist-oriented separatist belonging to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, who attempted to flee on a motorcycle, was captured by security forces at Attimalai junction, Batticaloa, in eastern Sri Lanka last evening. According to security sources, Padmanadhan's companion, who was in the pillion, was captured by the troops when he attempted to escape.

32 Killed in Sinhapura

BK251325 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 25 May 86

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpts] Sinhapura, Sri Lanka, May 25 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists attacked this small Sinhalese agricultural village early Sunday, killing 20 people and burning about 25 houses, survivors said. The twisted bodies of 10 people lay on a dirt road where they were lined up by Tamil assailants and shot. Three of the dead were children under the age of 10. Three women and a 13-year-old boy were also among the victims.

Villagers told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE they had left the bodies where they fell, awaiting the arrival of a magistrate who was to conduct a formal inquiry.

A total of 32 members of the majority Sinhalese community were killed in weekend attacks on Sinhapura and other nearby villages which make up the Mahadivullewa settlement development, a military spokesman said in Trincomalee Sunday.

Government officials said the attacks appeared to be an attempt by Tamil separatists to ease military pressure on their northern strongholds.

Survivors of the attack on Sinhapura told AFP they were summoned from their homes shortly after midnight by armed men who pretended to be looking for Tamil militants. The villagers were lined up, told to sit down, and shot, witnesses said. Those who did not die immediately were shot again, they added.

Sinhapura, about a five-minute helicopter ride from the coastal city of Trincomalee, was the hardest hit of the five villages struck by Tamil militants.

Survivors said gunmen began killing as soon as they entered the village. Many who survived the attacks said they were awakened by gunfire and hid in nearby scrub. When the Tamil militants came to deserted houses they torched them, several residents said.

The attacks on the villages have caused some residents, many of whom were settled in the area by the government, to flee. Other settlers, who total about 200 families, said they want government protection. "Give us protection. Keep some soldiers here. We want to live," several residents pleaded to high-ranking security officials who toured the area.

"The terrorists are trying to drive the Sinhala settlers away. The terrorists don't want a political settlement," one official said. "They are killing even innocent civilians and trying to drive the Sinhalese away from the Eastern Province."

Militant members of Sri Lanka's 2.5-million Tamil minority have been waging a campaign to establish a separate state on the north and east of the island, alleging discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority.

Security Increased After Attack

BK261202 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Sri Lanka has strengthened security around isolated Sinhala villages on the east coast today, after Tamil separatist terrorists killed 32 people during the weekend.

Defense secretary, General Sepala Attygalle, ordered a review of security arrangements in the region. He said after the attacks security forces were on alert across the country because of signs rebel's plan to [words indistinct] to disrupt peace talks.

Fifteen women and children were among 20 people brutally gunned down at Mahadivullewa in the Trincomalee District by Marxist separatist terrorists early yesterday morning. A military spokesman said that there were five men, seven women and eight children among the victims. Two of the women with gunshot injuries who survived the attacks were flown to Colombo for urgent medical attention.

The attack was similar in its ruthlessness to the Anuradhapura massacre a year ago, the Keng and Dola farm shootings and the carnage in the fishing villages of Kokilai and Nayaru, the spokesman said.

The joint operations command in Colombo said the villagers were asleep when the terrorists crept up on them. The houses were first set ablaze and they were mowed down by automatic fire as the inmates rushed out. Other victims included neighbors who unsuspectingly rushed up to help put out the blaze.

Trincomalee's coordinating officer, Brigadier Harshadimratne, said the campaign of terror was obviously aimed at frightening away Sinhalese who wish to return to their homes in the district.

A few hours before the Mahadivullewa attack terrorists had struck a hamlet named Gomarankadawela in the same area killing seven. Other attacks at Teruvila, Kallar, and Kalkudah within the same few hours brought the death toll to 32.

Further Commentary on Thatcher's Visit to Israel

Tehran Arabic
GF252043 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 25 May 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] From the era of Arthur Balfour to the rule of Margaret Thatcher, the Zionist entity developed from a mere promise to a political reality on the map. Despite the artificial existence of this entity on Palestinian soil historically and culturally, it became, within a period of 69 years, a painful reality on this soil. During this period, the Zionists managed to assemble themselves inside Palestine, declare their illegitimate state, and demand its security. If we ask how this happened, we would find the answer in the archives of Zionist-British relations. Britain is more than just a creater of this entity, which was a promise in the message of the British foreign secretary at the time to the world Jews. In his message, the British foreign secretary announced the British Government's desire to establish a national homeland for the Jews. The Britons sowed the Zionist seed on Palestinian soil and began to care for it and supply it with all means of life. The Britons converted this promise into reality and changed this gang into an entity. If we review the history of Zionist-British relations, we find that these relations passed through three phases:

First, Britain created the atmosphere suitable for establishing the Zionist mini-state on Palestinian soil. It provided the propaganda cover, created the expansionist sense for the Zionists, and began calling on all world Jews to emigrate to the land of Palestine.

Second, Britain took care of the Zionist entity which was in a weak position in a strange land and among Islamic people who could not accept partition of the land. The Zionist entity needed the support of others. The Britons remained in Palestine until 1948 when the enemy grew and gained strength. When it was able to stand on its feet, the Britons terminated the mandate and recognized the foundling Israel as an independent entity on Palestinian soil.

Since 1948 Britain has supported the Zionist aggression with various means and ways so that the Zionist entity would become a reality which all countries of the region would recognize. In light of this policy, came British efforts to support the Zionist existence. Part of these efforts is the visit to the enemy of Margaret Thatcher, described as the first visit to the Zionist entity by a British prime minister. What are the aims of this visit? Thatcher answers this question by saying that it is designed to bring security and peace to Israel and its neighboring countries. Those who are familiar with the situation of the enemy know that for a long time it has held the slogan of Israeli security. The enemy included in the list of security everything relevant to the Zionist existence on Palestinian soil and all of its requirements and the actions it attempts to perpetrate.

Zionist security is an expanded slogan to justify all enemy actions and all the aid given to it by others. When the enemy faces a financial crisis, it rushes to inform the big powers that its existence is in jeopardy and that these countries should provide generous support for it. In light of this, Zionist security is a justification more than a reality. A justification in the hand of the enemy to practice its policy, and a justification in the hand of the big powers to support this enemy, which asserts Thatcher's visit to the Zionist entity will not be limited to one issue and will not end in the provision of one kind of assistance. Thatcher found in Tel Aviv a long list of Zionist demands. Will all of these demands be fulfilled? Did all of the problems and crises end in Britain so that she may begin resolving the Zionist entity's insoluable problems?

KEYHAN AL-'ARABI
GF261020 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 26 May 86

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "From Balfour to Thatcher," the newspaper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* comments on the visit of Thatcher to occupied Palestine. The paper says that the internal pressures to which British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is being subjected, due to the failure of her party's economic policy and its full adherence to the U.S. strategy, has resulted in the Conservative Party losing popularity in British society in favor of the Labor Party and other small parties. Thatcher is trying to gain on the Labor Party — which is associated with the Zionist Labor Party — by attaining an alliance through the Socialist International. Thatcher came to occupied Palestine to pull the rug out from under the Labor Party and to attain a number of political and economic goals. Among the goals are the following:

1. To revive the Western presence in the Mediterranean basin and the Middle East in addition to reactivating Western investments in such a way that attains the interests of the international monopolist companies;
2. To reach an understanding about implementing a Marshal Plan in the Middle East which was proposed by enemy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. This plan is designed to intensify the Western presence in the region or to invade the region economically.

3. To coordinate positions with the Peres government in order to deal a blow to Syria and create new situations in the Middle East that would link direct talks between the Arabs and Israel and to establish an international umbrella that would include the EEC countries and the United States.

This visit reveals how some Arab reactionary regime are dragging their feet with regard to adopting a unified Arab-Islamic position toward this conspiratorial visit.

'Political Followup' Program
GF271754 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1430 GMT 27 May 86

[From the "Political Followup" program]

[Excerpts] Dear listener. It is our belief that the [British] prime minister is attempting to distract the attention of the British people from their problems by moving them, through her political

initiatives, to other parts of the world. Thus she deludes the British citizen that the restoration of Britain's glory through Margaret Thatcher requires him to sacrifice some of his comfort.

By doing so, she appears to be attempting to arouse the patriotic feelings of her people while pulling the carpet from underneath the opposition, which has always expressed accusation to the British Government, and revealed her weakness in facing the internal crisis.

Thatcher's choosing of the occupied Palestine as the stop for her present political activity was not successful for many reasons, the most important of which are:

1. The Palestinian issue slipped from the British hand a long time ago despite the British role in establishing the Zionist entity and the promise of [former] British Prime Minister Balfour to create a national state for the Jews in Palestine. Therefore, Thatcher is weaker in resolving the Palestinian issue or drafting plans to contain the Arab-Zionist conflict after Washington became involved in the game and its solution.

Washington did not leave a role for any other mediator to play in the scene of events there, so that it will not have a partner in planning and implementation to demand a share of the gains in the future.

2. If Britain was to play such role, it would not be able to go beyond U.S. convictions and, in turn, would not bring about anything new. Therefore Thatcher's visit has no significant political meaning in relation to a peaceful resolution. Perhaps the statements of British officials carried this fact as they asserted that Thatcher does not have any plan for peace in the Middle East.

3. People of the region who closely watch the moves will deal with Thatcher's visit with a spirit of disgust and dissatisfaction which will reflect on relations between those peoples and Britain.

Qatar Wants Withdrawal From Fasht al-Dibal, Hawar

GF250807 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] AFP has quoted so-called official Qatari sources as saying that Qatar has accepted the Saudi plan to resolve the dispute between it and Bahrain and has decided to withdraw its forces from Fasht al-Dibal Island, on condition that this is carried out simultaneously with the withdrawal of Bahraini forces from Hawar Island, which is located near the Qatari shores. The sources added that a GCC delegation which includes Saudi representatives and military observers from Kuwait, the UAE, and Oman, will supervise the implementation of the Qatari-Bahraini agreement.

Qatar occupied Fasht al-Dibal Island about 1 month ago. The issue of the ownership of the Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal Islands and (Qararah) has been for 10 years a source of disputes between Qatar and Bahrain.

New PRC Ambassador Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

GF260558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The new PRC ambassador called on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis, yesterday afternoon. Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the PRC ambassador that we expect the PRC leaders to play an active role in confronting the recent plot to reduce oil prices and to help neutralize this plot by cooperating with all oil-producing countries. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that if the oil-producing countries only reduced their oil production by 10 percent, then the damage done by the reduced oil prices would be compensated within a few months.

Reviewing the areas of cooperation between Iran and the PRC, the Majlis speaker said: We are satisfied with our existing relations, and we expect that these relations will further expand in the near future.

The PRC ambassador, after conveying the warm greetings and best wishes of PRC leaders to the leaders of the Islamic Republic, stressed the need for greater expansion of PRC-Iranian relations. He said that during his meetings with PRC leaders before coming to Iran all of them had expressed the desire for expanded relations between the two countries. They place great importance in these relations.

The ambassador said that the PRC is willing to place its experience at the disposal of our friend, the friendly state of Iran, in all fields. The new PRC ambassador recalled last year's visit by the Iranian Majlis speaker to the PRC and said the visit was very important.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD271008 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — The new Chinese ambassador to Iran, Wand Benzuo, met and conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Tuesday. Conveying warm and sincere messages of the officials of the People's Republic of China to the officials of the Islam Republic of Iran, the new ambassador stressed further expansion of bilateral relations.

In reply, the prime minister noted that there were common political and international grounds which promised a brighter prospect for the mutual relations. Referring to the preliminary preparations for holding the Iran and China economic commission, Prime Minister Musavi expressed hope that formation of the commission would help implementation of previous agreements.

Musavi: Al-Faw Victory Diminished Iraqi Status

LD241845 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told a group of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) commanders here Saturday that their great victory in Al-Faw had largely diminished the political and military stature of the Iraqi regime in the world. "Attempts by our enemies to

whitewash their failure have resulted in nothing but continued losses for them", he noted.

The premier said that Saddam Husayn has faced setback one after another in his attempts to prove to his supporters he is still a worthwhile ally, but that even they have grown weary of continued backing for his ill-fated aggression.

Musavi said that Iraq's victories are merely claims on paper and the loudspakers whereas the Muslim combatants of Iran are the actual victors in areas and battles claimed by Iraq to have been won.

Further Reportage on Rahmani Visit to Libya

Meets Libyan Armed Forces Chief

LD241239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Mr Rahmani, official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed Unit [Basij] of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], who is on a visit to brother country Libya at the head of a delegation consisting of Basij commanders, last night met with Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief the Libyan Armed Forces, at the Command Staff Headquarters of the Army, and delivered a message from Mohsen Reza'i commander of the IRGC, to Brigadier Jabir.

The commander in chief of Libya's Armed Forces, referring to the unity of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Libyan revolution, stated: We, in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, alongside the Islamic Revolution of Iran form the frontline shield of support for the world Islamic movement everywhere; and this is exactly why United States imperialism and its allied mercenaries are struggling to violate these two revolutions. They have a good sense of the dangers that the harmony between the revolutions poses to the interests of imperialism, Zionism, and reaction in the region. Mr Abu Bakr, pointing to the U.S. aggression toward Libya and the defeat suffered by the United States, stated: The United States, using terrorism as a pretext, intended to destroy the revolutionary stance and tendency of the region.

Mr Rahmani, expressing gladness at the United States' defeat in its attack on the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the similarities between this and the ignominious U.S. defeat in Tabas, replied: The similarities between these aggressions demonstrates that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah are in the same trench in the struggle against world imperialism. By refering to the defeat of the Iraqi Army in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations and the role of Basij forces in this war, he briefed Mr Abu Bakr on the organizational structure and people's training by the Basij unit and expounded on the latest victories in the war zones.

Mr Rahmani and the delegation accompanying him last night also met Col Mahri al-'Arabi, head of Libya's People's Forces and had a discussion with him. Yesterday also, Mr Rahmani, while visiting the Libyan Naval College, also learned about the training of students at this college.

Concludes 1-Week Visit

LD271307 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, May 27, IRNA — Iran's head of para-military volunteer forces, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, left Tripoli Monday after a one-week visit and talks with top Libyan officials.

At the airport Rahmani told reporters that both countries shared a future policy of anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle. "Muslim revolutionaries continue to stand together with common aim and in one bunker. They will continue efforts towards the great ideals of Islam that are the liberation of the oppressed and the creation of social justice" he said.

Accompanying him to the airport were Libya's Colonel Faraj, the head of the ground forces, Colonel Mehdi Maqrebi the head of the popular army, and Sa'id Hafiyaneh the deputy head of the People's Foreign Relations Committee.

During his stay, Rehmani met top military officials and visited Libya's army centers including the officers college in Tripoli where he was awarded an embiem.

Iran's volunteer forces was created after the 1979 Islamic Revolution on the order of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution, who dubbed the force as a "20-million-member-army". In 1980 after war broke out between Iraq and Iran the volunteer army, known for its heroism in the battlefield, became the bullwork of the Iranian offensives.

Officials in Tehran have said they are prepared to share the military experience of the force with friendly countries. Libya is one among several Arab allies of Iran.

Armed Forces Chiefs on Bayt al-Moqaddas Offensive

LD242011 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — A seminar was held to review the Bayt al-Moqaddas offensive Saturday at the headquarters of the Joint Staff.

Commanders of the Armed Forces and operational planners and chiefs of the offensive participated in the seminar.

Bayt al-Moqaddas offensive was launched on 24 May 1982 in Khuzestan Province where the Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses including 17,500 captives and 16,000 killed and wounded. Some 5,400 sq kms of the Iranian territory were liberated.

In this meeting Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi said that from the military point of view all the objectives of the offensive had been achieved. Colonel 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the ground forces and Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i, head of the politico-ideological department of the army also spoke at the seminar.

Safa'i said, "The Muslim nations should know how the army has conducted the war." He said if the Iranian people we do not write their own history, others would write it with malicious prejudice.

IRGC Commander Congratulates Victorious Combatants

LD251610 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Mohsen Reza'i sent laudatory messages Sunday to Muslim combatants for their recent victories in Faqqeh and Hajj 'Umran battlefronts. In separate messages to participating units of the two fronts, Reza'i expressed hope that Afghan refugees, Egyptian youth and the oppressed Lebanese would learn how to better resist.

The IRGC commander also congratulated the combatants on behalf of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces saying that the victory in Faqqeh and Hajj 'Umran fronts are among those heroic triumphs in the history of five-and-a-half-year old year war.

SAIRI Chairman Implies Egypt, Jordan Aiding Iraq

GF240607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakim, SAIRI chairman, in an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Qom, spoke about the sporadic attacks by Iraq in Mehran and Faqqeh regions. He said this shows the indecision of the regime after the losses it sustained in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim spoke on the possible employment of Egyptian and Jordanian mercenaries by the Saddam regime in war against the Islamic Republic. He said that in view of lack of Iraqi popular support for the Saddam regime and a shortage of personnel in the Iraqi army due to repeated defeats, it is possible that Saddam would extend his begging hand to Egyptian and Jordanian soldiers.

Speaking on Egyptian and Jordanian (?fear) of the Islamic revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said these regimes have covert cooperation with the criminal Israeli regime, which is well known. They have been colluding with Saddam in every move against the Islamic Republic. If they hire out their soldier mercenaries to Saddam, they will further expose their covert relations with Israel and their real relations with Saddam.

Iraq Conscipting Egyptians Into Military Service

LD240903 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Prov., May 24, IRNA — With Iraq's civil service force rapidly being depleted the regime is now impressing Egyptian nationals and even females into military service, an Iraqi POW taken captive in Mehran region said Friday. The POW 1st Lt. Hakem Haj-Kavir Kazem of 2d Battalion of Iraqi Brigade 417 (Division 28), told IRNA that a considerable portion was smashed in Iran's Liberation of the port city of Al-Faw. He said this fact cannot but gradually revealed.

The POW said that privileges previously granted to the families of the killed soldiers at the beginning of the war, no longer are available, and that according to a new law the old, the young and even young adults are sent to the fronts. The POW said that corruption is so pervasive in Iraq that those who respect and observe the Islamic principles are accused of cooperating with Islamic groups and as a result will be harassed by the authorities. Both the accused and his family suffer from such pressure he added.

Iraq is dependent on financial help from the Persian Gulf countries to continue its rule. the POW said. He added that Iraq engages in desperate attacks in the fronts to boost the morale of both its soldiers and the nation, however, they all prove to be futile.

The Iraqi lieutenant said that some 70 percent of his battalion (2) was destroyed when he was taken prisoner. He thanked his Iranian captors for their 'brotherly' treatment.

Honorary IRGC Guards Depart for Battlefronts

LD241212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Following the announcement by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] on its readiness to recruit honorary guards, this morning, the first convoy of honorary and irregular warfare guards from the IRGC, from the Province of Mazendaran and other parts throughout the country, forming a convoy called: the Standard Bearers of Labayk Ya Imam, composed of 700 combat-specialized and trained forces from the Imam Hasan base of Tehran, departed for the battlefronts of the imposed war.

Convoys Depart Esfahan, Hamadan, Provinces

LD251237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 86

[Unidentified correspondent report from Yasuj on 25 May — recorded]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the happy anniversary of Holy Imam Hasan, may peace be upon him, the sixth convoy of Karbala' marchers and the third convoy of Labayk ya Imam departed from the Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Ostan-e to the battlefronts of light against darkness this morning.

According to the Central News Unit, a huge convoy composed of one brigade of combatant forces of the townships of Yasuj, Bustan, Gachsaran and the villages in the environs of Deh Bozorg-e Sisakht Bask, Badla, Julahi, Zila'i [words indistinct] Bishahr and other parts of this combatant-nurturing province, departed for the battlefronts of justice against injustice.

The third convoy of (Labayk ya Imam) and the fifth convoy of Karbala' marchers from Esfahan, composed of one division of volunteer combat-specialized forces, today, left from the 15th Khordad base of this city, for the battlefronts of war.

Also three battalions of combative specialist and administrative forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the Hamadan District, left for the theaters of war from this district.

2,000 Technical Experts Leave Fars for Battlefront

LD261815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The fourth Karbala' convoy and the second Labbayk ya Imam convoy from Fars Province left Shiraz for the battlefronts this afternoon. According to a Central News Unit report, the convoys comprising 2,000 trained and redispatched technical experts, left for the fronts in 2,000 motor cars. [as heard]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,483

LD271642 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraq's Dukan power station at 35.57 North and 44.57 East coordinates at 05:26 hours (01:56 hours GMT) Tuesday inflicting substantial damage on it, and returning safely to their bases, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The Joint Staff Communique number 2483 said that Iranian navy patrols intercepted and inspected 11 oil tankers and cargo ships sailing under foreign flags in the Hormuz Strait Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for the Iraqi regime.

The communique said that Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi offensive in Hajj 'Umran and Height number 2519 early Tuesday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them. Artillery duels between the warring troops still continues.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Monday raging more intensely in Hajj 'Umran, Sumar, Mehran, Zobeydah and Majnun Islands killing and wounding many Iraqi soldiers and demolishing parts of enemy positions, said the Joint Staff.

In the northwestern and western fronts, the communique said, three tanks, four 152-mm artillery pieces, three supply and engineering vehicles and one heavy mortar launcher of Iraqi forces were destroyed and four enemy munitions dumps as well as two trucks were set ablaze. Long range artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants hit Iraqi oil installations in Banmil Monday and Tuesday, said the communique.

According to the communique Iranian forces checked operations of Iraqi helicopters in Nahre-Anbar, and elsewhere in Sharhani they minimized enemy transport and reinforcement operations.

In Sumar and Kani-Sheikh, the communique said, Muslim forces prevented Iraqi troops from setting up mine fields or fortifying their positions. Movements of Iraqi armoured units were also checked.

Meanwhile 30 shops and houses in Abadan and some residential buildings in Piranshahr West Azarbayjan Province were damaged as they were hit by the long-range artillery fire of the Iraqi forces Monday.